GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Priority Sectors under PDS
Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors/regions accorded priority under the extant provisions of the Public Distribution System (PDS);
(b) whether there is any provision for giving special priority to the drought and flood-hit areas under the extant system and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued any directions/guidelines aimed at giving priority to the drought-hit areas under PDS; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): Government has enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA) under which the foodgrains are to be provided to the priority category @ 5 kg per person per month and AAY households @ 35kg per family per month at highly subsidized prices of Rs.1/2/3 per kg for coarse grains/wheat/rice. The Act covers 75% of population in the rural areas 50% in the urban areas, thereby covering 2/3rd population in the entire country. However, under the Act the responsibilities for identification of beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains to them rest with the concerned State/UT Government.
(b): Government also makes allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs for natural calamities such as drought and floods for distribution to the beneficiaries. During the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Government of India has allocated a quantity of 30.89 lakh tons and 4.85 lakh tons of foodgrains to the States for drought and flood relief respectively.
(c) & (d): No such specific recommendations have been issued by National Human Rights Commission.
****